

The WILD SHEEP of WESTERN KANSU

H. FRANK WALLACE

YOU come by way of Taohow, the new city—a mushroom growth of some six hundred years old—not the old, which lies further to the west. The wall struggles up a hillside and round a sharply rising knoll—a fine natural watch-tower. Two-thirds of the area enclosed is devoted to cultivation, while the town itself, flat-roofed and in the case of some houses two-storied, meanders about the lower slopes and is almost entirely inhabited by Tibetan Mahomedans. It is in reality the border town between Tibet and China, though Tibet proper lies thirty miles to the west. A few "H" from the city you cross a low pass, from which it is possible to see the snow-capped heights of the Minshan mountains. They look down on a huddled mass of gradually lowering hills, torn and intersected by green, rushing mountain streams from which



A BURHEL RAM



GEORGE LEADING TO THE SHEEP CAMP



SOME BORDER TIBETANS ON THE MARCH

radiate an interminable series of birch and fir clad gullies. The Tao river sharply divides this type of country from the low, bare, cultivated slopes where Taohow lies. From the summit of the pass one drops down between narrow grass-covered corries to the little town—if such it can be called—of Choni, within a few hundred yards of the river. Incidentally, one passes from lackadaisical, inert China into an atmosphere of border feuds, mediaeval raids, pine-covered, snow-capped peaks and a wild race of Highlanders. It is a quaint little place, like a pigeon's nest in a cluster of red cliffs, dominated by a lamassal containing six hundred monks, as dirty and evil-looking as most of their tribe. The capital of the Prince of Choni, it is the only town within his dominions, which extend over a district half as large as Scotland. A half-caste Tibetan, aged twenty-three, he furnishes a very pretty parallel to Rehoboth. His predecessor, who was the eighteenth of his line, a popular and wise old ruler, adopted him. The prince, on his death, turned away the old men who had hitherto helped to govern the forty-eight wild tribes who owed allegiance to their master and substituted his own friends, spending his nights with them in gambling, opium-smoking and other forms of dissipation. He is dependent on China and under the authority of the county official, who in turn is subject to the viceroy of Shenai and Kansu. This personage resides at Lanchow. When we arrived at the capital, the prince and about two hundred men (he pays no tribute to China, but must supply two thousand irregular cavalry if called upon) were away in the hills fighting the T'epu, a wild, aboriginal tribe who infest the country to the south of the Minshan mountains. These interesting people are divided into fourteen clans, and are much dreaded by the Chinese, who only venture through their country once a year. They then organize a big caravan of merchants with guards, and get through as quickly as possible. The T'epu are very hostile to strangers, and it would probably be as much as one's possessions were worth to venture into their territory alone. A clan protects its own friends and the friends of its chief, but not the friends of another clan, who are looked on as legitimate prey. When they hold a stranger in great affection and reverence, they have a custom of regarding him as their adopted father. As an illustration of their character, the prime minister of the late Prince of Choni, being adopted as father by about forty T'epu, went alone among them to retrieve the grandchildren of a Christian convert whom they had kidnapped. All the king's horses and all the king's men were powerless; but this one man, because he was their friend, safely entered their country and returned with the children. They are not agriculturists, but live chiefly by barter, and come into Choni occasionally for provisions. I saw a number of them later on, including a lama who performed a monotonous and somewhat senseless dance for our edification. At times they dash down in a sudden raid, as the Choni are watering their horses and livestock at the river, and whirl them away into the hills be-

fore their owners have time to recover from their astonishment. One of their priests was imprisoned by the prince in his yamen. Six of them set out to rescue him, and had the impudence and courage to go and cook their food in the yard of the yamen! So much for the T'epu!

We spent some days in Choni, and on September 11th left for the little village of Archuen, thirty miles to the south, where we were the paying guests of one Chishi. He was a keen hunter, a thin, wiry man with a pleasant face. The Tibetan houses are far cleaner and more modern than those of the Chinese. We occupied the large family room, which they all contain, and were really very well off. Our hostess, a most masterful lady, who ruled her husband with a rod of iron, had to be warned not to invade the sanctity of our chamber at certain hours, otherwise she and the rest of the village crowded to what they considered a show organized by a beneficent Providence for their special benefit, in and out of season.

Our object in coming to Archuen was to secure heads of the wild sheep of western Kansu. Dr. J. A. C. Smith, our companion, sent home a specimen which the natives brought him early in 1911; but so far as I am aware it has not hitherto been secured by a white man in this particular part of China. Mr. R. Kingdon Ward has erroneously described it as *Ovis Hodgsoni*, but this it most certainly is not. A full-grown male stands about three feet at the shoulder and weighs approximately one hundred and fifty pounds. (I give later the measurements of one which I subsequently shot.) The horns are smooth, growing more or less at right angles to the skull and curving upwards and outwards at the tips. The animals are handsomely marked with black on the forelegs, with a white patch on the knee. A black stripe runs up the hind legs to the point of the thigh. The hocks are also black. The chest of the older rams is of a similar color, speckled with white on the neck; the black marking extends between the fore legs. There is a black stripe on the side extending from the point of the thigh to a point short of the elbow. The tip of the tail is black. The general color is gray-brown, though in certain aspects there is a decidedly blue tinge. The muzzle is dark to a line between the eyes, turning to a red-brown tone at the edges where it merges into the general gray tone of the face. Very closely allied to the burhel of India (*Ovis montanus*), I cannot be certain if they are identical. It is difficult to compare the two from photographs, but from the remarks of local hunters it would certainly appear that there are differences particularly in the shape of the horns. After a week's hunting from Archuen we decided to move so as to be closer to our ground. George had got on the track of a herd containing three rams, while I had seen a lot of nine, headed by a single ram with one horn. George located his herd on an extremely steep rocky ridge which thrust itself from a grass slope above the river. The ledges were sprinkled with firs and rhododendrons, which added considerably to the difficulties of the task. He slept out on one occasion beneath a

ledge of rock with his hunter, climbed above the sheep, and would certainly have got a shot had not the latter unnecessarily exposed himself at a critical moment and sent the herd careering off; all of which George explained in a short note reminiscent of Mr. Peppys at his best. He never got on terms with them again. I had seen nothing since my first day out, so we moved five or six miles to the east.

The weather was very changeable, and we experienced snow, hail, thunder, rain and mist in disagreeable succession. On September 25th I reached camp just as it was getting dark, to find that the two shots I had heard in the forenoon were the heralds of success, and that George had secured a very pretty head. I had an alternation of good and bad luck, for, spying a ram at 7:30, I had my stalk spoiled by three miserable medicine diggers, followed him all day, had four distinct stalks, missed him once, and finally killed him at five o'clock in the evening.

The horns measured 20 inches in length, 12 inches in circumference and 28 inches from tip to tip. This, of course, is small in length for an Indian burhel, but good in other respects. The native hunters declare that the heads in this district never attain to very much greater length, and Dr. Smith tells me that the head which he sent to England was somewhat thicker in circumference, but not so long and much more clumsy in appearance. All of which would seem to prove that this was an older ram, which had worn down the tips of his horns, while my specimen is probably that of a rather younger beast, very nearly, if not quite, in his prime.

He certainly was not at all strong smelling, which is a characteristic of the Indian variety, though George said he noticed a distinct odor from the herd. The native hunters declare that these sheep rut in January and that the lambs are dropped in May. If this is so, the best rams were probably still on higher ground, which we had not time to reach.

The measurements of my specimen are as follows:

	Inches.
Height (allowing for weight when standing)	35
Length (nose to root of tail, straight line)	48
Length (following curve of back)	55
Tail	8
Fore leg (elbow to point of hoof, straight line)	28
Fore leg girth (below knee)	4 1/2
Fore leg girth (forearm)	9 1/2
Hind leg (point of thigh to point of hoof, straight line)	25 1/2
Hind leg (from hock to point of hoof)	13 1/2
Girth (cleaned)	42

NAPOLÉON RELIC FOUND.

It is reported here, says a Paris correspondent of the New York Times, that at the town of Dorpat, in Russia, there has just been discovered a remarkable relic of Napoleon's Russian campaign in the form of a copy of Goethe's "Werther," which was his personal property and accompanied him wherever he went.

The volume, which is bound in leather and in an excellent state of preservation, contains, as well as Napoleon's signature, a curious inscription on the fly leaf by an unknown hand, stating that the book was stolen by a Cossack from the emperor's sledge one night on the retreat from Moscow.

Besides the date of the theft and the name of the thief, details are given of the method by which the Cossack managed to possess himself of the volume.

Instinct.

"That shepherd dog of yours is watching your strange visitor very closely."

"Naturally. The dog sees that the man looks sheepish."

Saves Breath.

"Hibrow is a queer guy," remarked the Old Sport.

"Why?" asked the Rounder.

"He always says 'omit' when he means 'cut it out,'" replied the Old Sport.

His Only Chance.

Poet (raising his glass): A glorious fluid! A whole poem is contained in it.

Skeptical Friend—Then in heaven's name swallow it down quick—Meg-

WESTERN CANADA'S PROSPERITY

NOT A BOOM, BUT DUE TO NATURAL DEVELOPMENT.

One of the largest banks in Holland has been doing a big business in Western Canada, and Mr. W. Westerman, the President, on a recent visit into the Provinces of Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta, expressed himself as being much impressed with present conditions and prospects, and was convinced that the great prosperity of the Dominion was not a boom, but merely the outcome of natural development.

Not only has money been invested largely in Western Canada by the Holland Banks, but by those of Germany, France, as well as Great Britain. Not only are these countries contributing money, but they are also contributing people, hard headed, industrious farmers, who are helping to produce the two hundred million bushels of wheat and the three hundred million bushels of the other small grains that the Provinces of the West have harvested this season.

During the past fiscal year there came into Canada from the United States 133,710; from Austria, Hungary 21,651; from Belgium 1,601; Holland 1,077; France 2,094; Germany 4,664; Sweden 2,394; Norway 1,632; and from all countries the immigration to Canada in that year was 354,237. From the United States and foreign countries the figures will be increased during the present year.

Most of these people have gone to the farms, and it is no far look to the time when the prophecy will be fulfilled of half a billion bushel crop of wheat in Western Canada. Advertisement.

'TWOULDN'T BE LIKE HIM.



Mrs. Jones—What did you say to the janitor?
Jones—I told him that he could make some warm friends if he would only turn on a little heat.

THE RIGHT SOAP FOR BABY'S SKIN

In the care of baby's skin and hair, Cuticura Soap is the mother's favorite. Not only is it unrivaled in purity and refreshing fragrance, but its gentle emollient properties are usually sufficient to allay minor irritations, remove redness, roughness and chafing, soothe sensitive conditions, and promote skin and hair health generally. Assisted by Cuticura Ointment, it is most valuable in the treatment of eczemas, rashes and other itching, burning infantile eruptions. Cuticura Soap wears to a wafer, often outlasting several cakes of ordinary soap and making its use most economical.

Cuticura Soap and Ointment sold throughout the world. Sample of each free with 32-p. Skin Book. Address post-card "Cuticura, Dept. L, Boston." Adv.

Probably Prize Grouch.

A grouchy butcher, who had watched the price of porterhouse steak climb the ladder of fame, was deep in the throes of an unusually bad grouch when a would-be customer, 8 years old, approached him and handed him a penny.

"Please, mister, I want a cent's worth of sausage."

Turning on the youngster with a growl, he let forth this burst of good salesmanship:

"Go smell 'o' the hook!"—New Orleans Daily States.

So Many Like Tribble.

"Tribble is a discontented fellow. I don't believe he even knows what he wants."

"Oh, yes. He knows what he wants. What makes him discontented is the fact that he also knows he can't get it."

Changed Its Species.

"Wasn't the forbidden fruit an apple?"

"Yes, but at the time Eve handed it to Adam, it was a lemon."

A woman is always trying to impress upon her husband that she isn't feeling as well as she ought to.



"Real Fisherman's Luck for Duke's Mixture Smokers"

Good tobacco and a good reel! That's surely a lucky combination for the angler—and here's the way you can have them both.

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Duke's Mixture

All smokers should know Duke's Mixture made by Liggett & Myers at Durham, N. C.

Pay what you will, you cannot get better granulated tobacco for 5c than the big ounce and a half sack of Duke's Mixture. And with each of these big sacks you get a book of cigarette papers FREE.

Get a Good Fishing Reel Free by saving the Coupons now packed in Liggett & Myers Duke's Mixture. Or, if you don't want a reel—get any one of the hundreds of other articles. In the list you will find something for every member of the family. Pipes, cigarette cases, catcher's gloves, canemans, watches, toilet articles, etc.

Remember—you still get the same big one and a half ounce sack for 5c—enough to roll many cigarettes.

During November and December only, we will send our new illustrated catalogue of presents FREE. Simply send us your name and address.

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Aim to make that strong—and digestion good—and you will keep well! No chain is stronger than its weakest link. No man is stronger than his stomach. With stomach disordered a train of diseases follow.

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makes the stomach healthy, the liver active and the blood pure. Made from forest roots, and extracted without the use of alcohol. Sold by druggists, in liquid form at \$1.00 per bottle for over 40 years, giving general satisfaction. If you prefer tablets as modified by R. V. Pierce, M. D., these can be had of medicine dealers or trial box by mail on receipt of 50c in stamps.

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Some folks calculate to get on in the world upon the shoulders of other people.—Christian Herald.

Only a lawyer or a detective can find his own business when he tries into other people's.

PISO'S REMEDY Best Cough Syrup. Tastes Good. Use in time. Sold by Druggists. FOR COUGHS AND COLDS.

Mufflers for Aeroplanes

Recent experiments with a muffling box on board an aeroplane, made near Paris, proved successful. The great noise of the motor ordinarily lessens the comforts in flying and fatigues the pilot as well as causes annoyance to passengers. In military work, noise prevents the officers from hearing sounds which come from the ground, and these would often be a useful factor in observations. Pilots

cannot use their voices to any extent. Another point is that were the motor silent running the observers could hear sound signals coming from the ground and could also return signals by using trumpets of different pitch, or sirens, as are used on vessels. The test took place between a military commission, and during the flight it is said that the noise of the motor was so much reduced as to allow the

pilot, Labouret, to speak to the persons on the ground when he was flying at 300 feet. The muffler box does not overheat, owing to the strong air cooling which is received. The loss of power is below two per cent., as shown by measurement. Fitting. "That young cashier always dresses so appropriately." "Yes, I noticed today he had on a changeable tie."